

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed November 10, 2003, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive to that office action. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-13 and 15-18 remain in this application. The office action indicated that claims 8-11 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form without the limitations of claims 2-4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-11 are in suitable condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 17 were objected to for being in improper dependent form. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form. And claim 17 now properly depends upon claim 16.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 5-11 were rejected due to an antecedent-basis issue related to "the plurality of modules." Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 4. This amendment to claim 5 resolves the antecedent-basis issue. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7 and 12-18 were rejected as anticipated by Ulrich et al. (U.S. Patent 6,466,228). Ulrich fails to establish prima facie anticipation or obviousness of claim 1 because Ulrich, either alone or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "a system schema file containing skin-theme metadata that describes allowable form and content of theme-authoring data . . . wherein a theme packager uses the system schema file for validating contents of a theme-authoring file."

Claim 1 is directed to "an extensible schema stored as computer-executable instructions on a computer readable medium for defining a respective visual appearance for a plurality of

computer system components in accordance with a user interface skin theme, the schema comprising: a system schema file containing skin-theme metadata that describes allowable form and content of theme-authoring data that defines at least one display attribute for at least one user interface component, the system schema file including at least one definition of a plurality of user interface parts, wherein a theme packager uses the system schema file for validating contents of a theme-authoring file, and the system schema file including a definition of a plurality of user interface part states corresponding to at least a respective one of the user interface parts.”

Ulrich does not disclose, teach, or suggest “a system schema file containing skin-theme metadata that describes allowable form and content of theme-authoring data . . . wherein a theme packager uses the system schema file for validating contents of a theme-authoring file.” Ulrich discloses creation and editing of a theme associated with a graphical user interface (GUI). A GUI object is selected from a library of GUI objects, and the theme is edited by adding the GUI object to the theme. Information associated with the GUI object is stored as part of the theme. (Abstract). Ulrich discloses an appearance-management layer that gives users the ability to customize the appearance and behavior of the desktop. This layer is provided between clients and the graphic subsystem that writes to the display. (Col. 3, lines 18-30). Switchable pointers and drawing procedures provide the basic building blocks that allow the geometry of each interface object to be manipulated. By switching the pointers to the drawing procedures, or by switching the data used by the procedures, the appearance of the interface can be changed. (Col 5, lines 29-40).

Ulrich discloses resources that define a geometry model that can be broken into the four parts listed in Table A, which appears in column 7 of Ulrich. There is a list of operation codes that place horizontal and vertical boundaries that will be used to specify the edges of glyphs in a user-interface object. Each boundary can be placed relative to a reference, which is either part of a parent shape (e.g., a rectangle that defines a window's, or other object's, workspace) or a previously defined boundary. Ulrich, does not, however, disclose “a system schema file containing skin-theme metadata that describes allowable form and content of theme-authoring data” and that is used by a theme packager for validating contents of a theme-authoring file.

Appln. No.: 09/825,518
Amendment dated February 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed November 10, 2003

For at least the foregoing reasons, Ulrich fails to establish prima facie anticipation or obviousness of claim 1, which contains allowable subject matter and is in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 12, 16, and 18 contain limitations that are analogous to the limitations discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1, claims 12, 16, and 18 contain allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2-7, 13 15, and 17 are proper dependent claims and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.


All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 10, 2004

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